



# Ithra Guide to the Eastern Province

2021

الشرقية  
تبدع

AlSharqiya Gets Creative



# Welcome aboard!

With this guide, the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra) takes you on a knowledge and heritage tour around the Eastern Province. It features carefully selected landmarks coupled with historical overview as part of a journey that includes 23 of the Eastern Province's most prominent sites that reflect its history, human heritage and culture.

We wish you an enjoyable and knowledge-filled journey!



# AlSharqiya Through Space

## A Geographical Overview

The Eastern Province (AlSharqiya) has achieved many phases of growth, thanks to its unique diversity in population, topography and resources. Wherever you put your finger on the map, you will find varying geographical and geological features. It is the Kingdom's largest province with an area of 77,850 square kilometers – a quarter of the Kingdom's total area – and it is home to the Al-Ahsa Oasis, the largest oasis in the world.

The province's coast is also a major commercial and recreational destination, as its ports have been flourishing with trade since the dawn of history, and it continues to be an extremely prominent trading hub.

To the west extend the deserts of An Nafud, whose sands erase the traces of footsteps, but not those of heroic battles that took place on its hills and fields.

Dammam is the capital of the Eastern Province, and its most prominent cities include Al Khobar, Al-Ahsa, Al Qatif, Abqaiq, Jubail, Hafr Al-Batin, Al-Nairyah and Al-Khafji.




# AlSharqiya Through Time

## A Historical Overview

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The Eastern Province history has deep roots, as it has been inhabited for the last 5,000 years. Its history has crystallized throughout the pre-Islamic eras to the present day. It is one of the unique jewels of the Arabian Peninsula, and it has shifted historically from one civilization to another, incubating multiple peoples and nations and connecting with many civilizations, such as Mesopotamia, the cultures of the Indus River, Persia and the Portuguese. These intersections reach back to the province's roles as a commercial hub and a major meeting point for the area and neighboring regions. In modern history, the Eastern Province united with the rest of the Kingdom under the founder HM King Abdulaziz Al-Saud in 1913. Since then, the Eastern Province has boasted well-established security, flourishing prosperity and a spirit that is open to change – a leading reason why the people of the province are conscious builders of civilization.








# AlSharqiya Through the Lens of Development

## An Economic Overview

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Famous for its springs of water and deposits of oil, this province earned the name it was given by the late Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah – "Prosperity" – during a visit in 2010. The Eastern Province became the most notable component of the Kingdom's economy when oil was discovered in commercial quantities for the very first time during the 1930s. This paved the way for Aramco, which was not entirely owned by the Saudi government until 1980, to transform from a mere company producing and exporting oil into an integrated petroleum company boasting a well-established global presence that invests and innovates in the fields of energy, refining, mining, advanced research, environmental protection and education.

AlSharqiya's economy goes far beyond the concept of oil. It has received tireless attention from its leadership in support of developing its agricultural, industrial and non-profit sectors across many fields such as trade and tourism. This is paving the way for major industrial centers such as King Salman Energy Park (SPARK), Jubail Industrial City and other major development projects. This growth reinforces the position of the Eastern Province as an investment destination and a critical hub for national transformation and achieving the goals of Vision 2030.



# Roadmap

## First Station

**Dammam** (A Window Overlooking the Culture of the Gulf)

Alfelwah and Aljowharah Museum  
Heritage Village  
Abu Radha Museum  
Love Market  
Coral Island

## Third Station

**Al-Dhahran** (The Mother of Oil Villages)

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## Fifth Station

**Al Qatif** (Cradle of Spears and Success)

Tarout Castle  
Ramis  
Castle Palace of Muhammad ibn Abd AlWahhab

## Second Station

**Al Khobar** (Blue Bridges)

Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Center for Science and Technology (Scitech)  
Taybeen Museum  
Art Street in Bayonia

## Fourth Station

**Al-Ahsa** (Hofuf Heritage Museum)

Ibrahim Historical Palace  
Al-Qarah Mountain (Land of Civilizations)  
Jawatha Mosque  
Al Uqayr Port  
Princes School  
Al-Qaisaryah Market  
House of Allegiance

## Last Station

(Other Faces of Beauty)

Fanateer Beach – Al Jubail  
Friday Market – Abqaiq  
Al Nairyah Popular Market

The background image shows the First Station Dammam sculpture, a large, colorful, abstract structure with a prominent circular opening. It is situated in an open area with a paved road in the foreground and a modern building in the background. The sky is blue with some clouds. A large teal circle is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text. A yellow and black chevron road sign and a red and white arrow sign are visible in the foreground. A red sign with Arabic text is on the building in the background. A purple circle is overlaid on the bottom left corner.

First Station

# Dammam

A Window Overlooking  
the Culture of the Gulf



## The City from Above:

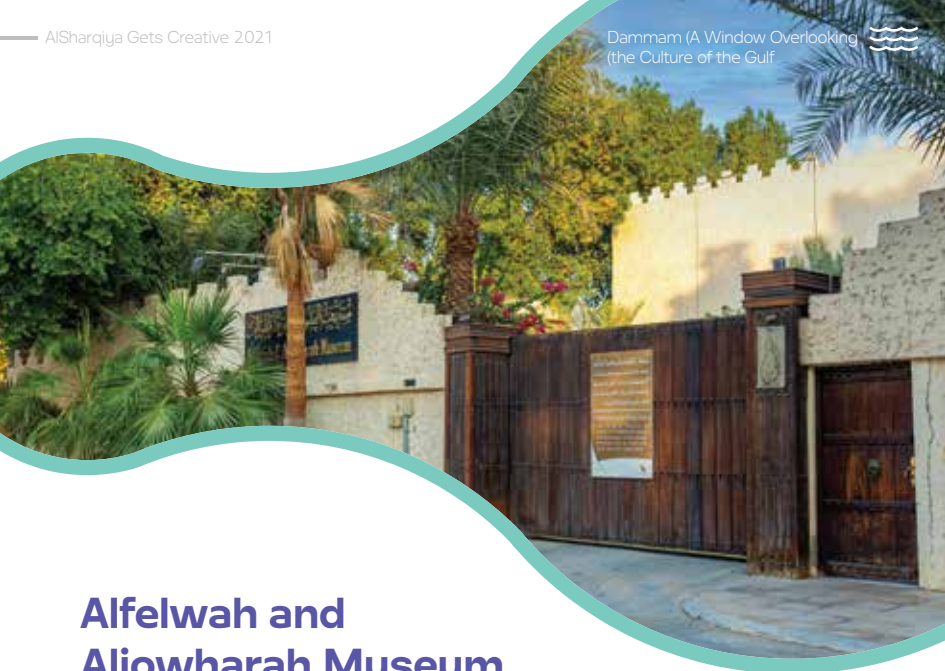
Dammam is the capital of the Eastern Province and its largest city, with a population of more than one million people. Its history is embodied by the Dammam Castle, which was built more than 500 years ago.

Dammam has an eternal relationship with the coast of the Arabian Gulf it overlooks. Due to its coastal nature, Dammam has long been distinguished by its cultural and civilizational diversity. Today, it is a vibrant city with many social and economic activities in addition to its prominent cultural and tourist attractions.

Dammam is not just one city. Its industry is a city. Its trade is a city. And its varied communities of people make for multiple cities. It is truly a window overlooking the culture of the Gulf and a gateway to the present.







## Alfelwah and Aljowharah Museum

It is clear why Abdulwahab Alghunaim named the museum he established in 2018 the Alfelwah and Aljowharah Museum after his two daughters. Everything in the museum is rich with the sense of fatherhood and family tenderness. The 500,000 artifacts Alghunaim collected over decades were motivated by a sense of nostalgia for the beautiful past and his responsibility towards his identity and connection to the Kingdom

features thousands of rare pieces of jewelry, collectibles, utensils and other historical gems that take visitors on a journey to days of old with deep roots in Saudi and Islamic culture in particular, and the world in general.

The museum is divided into two parts: "Alfelwah," which includes antique cars whose luxury is matched only by its former passengers – kings and heads of state – and "Aljowhara" which



## Heritage Village

The Heritage Village in Dammam is a cultural and entertainment destination that presents the history of the Eastern Province and Gulf countries in one place. The five-story building is designed in the style of castles and characterized by traditional and ancient construction methods. Everything the village offers is characterized by its authentic heritage: its excellent restaurants, its elegantly landscaped grounds leading to the various museums and galleries, and its wonderful market which features archeological exhibits and engraved wooden facades.

The Heritage Village highlights the beauty of folklore and the richness of history in a way that combines creativity with tradition.



## Abu Radha Museum

Driven by his passion for the authentic heritage and his love for his people and their rich history, the Dammam-based Ahmad Abu Radha spent more than half a century gathering and classifying his collectibles. He then deposited these archeological treasures in the wonderfully curated Abu Radha Museum. Arranged in a way that conveys the lives of ancestors and past generations, the museum features sections dedicated to men's and women's clothing, weapons, war tools, antique guns,

and a special area for ornaments and decorations. Moving from the ancient past to the present day, the museum even features a section that displays radios and televisions.

The Abu Radha Museum is an individual initiative that makes the case that the acquisition of antiquities and cultural artifacts is about identity. Abu Radha's collection is a reminder about the importance of the past in the formation of Saudi civilization.



## Love Market

The popular Love Market is located in the center of Dammam. Its energetic appeal is often first noticed in the shop windows featuring dazzling displays of jewelry. It has long attracted visitors from throughout the Eastern Province who are looking to relive the simple, old and spontaneous times in trading. Love Market has preserved its economic role and historical qualities with its vast space for presenting local products of all types.

The market is a steadfast force that has refused to bend its knee to the shiny new commercial centers; rather, it competes fiercely with them through its character, its variety of goods, attractive prices, and its nostalgia-worthy permanent vitality.



## Coral Island

Coral Island is the first artificial island in Saudi Arabia. It was established by Aramco under the reign of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd in 1991. Coral Island is distinguished by its elegant landscapes, vast green areas and views of the beach, where various cruise ships and boats pass so visitors can enjoy the unique features of the island and explore the Dammam Corniche.

The island represents a wonderful opportunity for recreation and to escape from the noise of the city to the calmness of the sea and the harmony of nature. It is an ideal place for a walk.

This magical island located on the Arabian Gulf also provides a unique opportunity to discover the sea. It also offers high-quality tourist services, multiple accommodation options, and a view of Dammam's most beautiful landmarks.



Second Station

# Al Khobar

Blue Bridges



## The City from Above:

The city of Al Khobar is like a smaller Dammam; yet, located 17 km away, it has its own spirit and unique personality. It extends a spiritual bridge between the vitality of Dammam and the richness of Al Dhahran – as well as an actual bridge between nations. Connecting Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, the King Fahd Causeway spans 25 km, making it one of the longest bridges in the world. These connections make Al Khobar one of the most prominent destinations in the Eastern Province for tourists, shoppers and visitors. They also comprise the core of Al Khobar's well-known and distinctive social, cultural and commercial activity.

Al Khobar is a hospitable city. And due to its generous nature, it gladly welcomes residents, passersby and visitors to its beaches, corniche, commercial malls and cultural monuments.





## Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Center for Science and Technology (Scitech)

The Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Center for Science and Technology (Scitech) is one of the Kingdom's most outstanding scientific destinations. The Center was built by HRH Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz, gifted to King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals and launched in 2006. It was designed to be a state-of-the-art scientific center with several exhibition halls showcasing various fields of science and technology. Scitech features more than 350 interactive scientific exhibits, the scientific dome, the astronomical observatory, and the educational unit.

Scitech aims to increase knowledge about science and technology as well as raise community awareness. It seeks to create a sustainable ecosystem by inspiring visitors – especially young people – to grow their interests in the latest scientific developments through interactive and technologically engaging methods that combine education, entertainment and experience to introduce principles of science and their applications.





## Taybeen Museum

As you take your first steps into Al Khobar's Taybeen Museum, you are greeted by the chirping of birds, which makes you realize immediately that this is not a typical museum.

Majid Al Ghamdi, founder of the museum, says: "Our goal is to connect our grandchildren with the memories of their grandparents." And he has achieved just that. The Taybeen Museum contains more than 10,000 original pieces that exude the warmth of memory and beauty of the past. The museum takes visitors back to the 1960s and the beginnings of urbanization in Saudi Arabia. It celebrates

heritage and legacy through displays of food, drinks, equipment, games and other collectibles that are rich with memory.

The museum takes visitors on a journey through stories of our grandmothers that are imbued with intimacy to convey the evolution over generations from simplicity to authentic urbanization.



## Art Street in Bayonia

The Art Street project transformed the aging neighborhood of Bayonia, one of the oldest neighborhoods in Al Khobar, into one of the Eastern Province's liveliest sites where authentic contemporary culture serves to celebrate local heritage. Walls and streets were painted by 21 Saudi artists to give this old neighborhood a new life through aesthetic accents and energy.

The streets of Bayonia were decorated with artistic murals that restored the old glory of the walls and their steadfastness. The groundbreaking project has made Art Street into a masterwork combining visions of Saudi culture both past and present. It has also become a cultural tourist attraction, a lively bright point that appeals to people of all ages and background.

An aerial night photograph of Al-Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. The image shows a large, modern building with a distinctive white, conical roof structure illuminated with purple and gold lights. The surrounding area is a complex of roads and parking lots, also illuminated. In the background, the city of Dhahran is visible under a twilight sky. A large, semi-transparent purple circle is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text.

Third Station

# Al-Dhahran

The Mother of Oil Villages



## The City from Above:

Al-Dhahran is a modern city and one of the most important petroleum cities in the world. It is home to the headquarters of Aramco, and a number of universities and centers focused on humanities, science and the future.

Al-Dhahran is famous for its oil fields and wells, starting with Well No.7 (the Prosperity Well) which was the first well in Saudi Arabia where oil was discovered in commercial quantities. The well kept on giving beyond its closure by becoming the foundation of the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra), a global hub for culture and knowledge.







## King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra)

The King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra) is Saudi Aramco's most prominent social responsibility initiative. Ithra's mission is to create a unique space for nurturing creativity, disseminating knowledge, and promoting cultural interaction and communication through its year-round cultural, creative and educational programs.

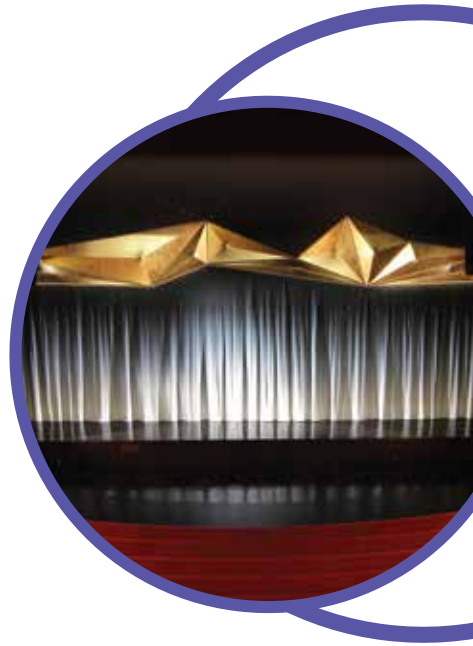
Ithra is the most prominent cultural landmark in the Eastern Province. In 2018, it was named by Time Magazine as one of the top 100 greatest places to visit in the world. The Center's departments and initiatives are designed to enable all segments of society to engage in the experience, sharing and dissemination of knowledge, arts, culture and thought, on both the national and global levels.





## Ithra Theater

Built over an area of 10,000 square meters, the Theater features an audience capacity of over 900 seats. The seats are organized over three levels in the manner of many leading international opera houses so they offer an uninterrupted view of the stage. The Theater's retractable orchestra pit, lighting, sound and back stage systems are state of the art, making the Theater a truly world-class facility.



## Ithra Cinema

The Cinema houses 300 seats and is equipped with the latest technology for the screening of Saudi and international films. The Ithra Cinema also hosts workshops, lectures and live discussions featuring many industry-admired celebrities and renowned experts. It is a permanent platform designed to help deliver the Kingdom's creative, cultural and documentary productions to global platforms.



## Ithra Museum

The Ithra Museum is a cultural time machine that mounts exhibitions of modern and contemporary art, Saudi heritage, Islamic art and the natural history of the Arabian Peninsula. The Museum's five galleries allow visitors to take their own unique journeys through exhibitions, workshops, specialized tours and loaned international collections.

The Museum's own growing collections of arts and crafts represent the rich culture of Saudi Arabia, Islamic heritage and contemporary art from around the world.



## Ithra Library

The Ithra Library is one of the largest public libraries in the region. It contains more than 270,000 titles and 10,000 audio and digital publications in both Arabic and English. It is a unique hub for knowledge that presents many events such as book signings, lectures by prominent local and international guests, story reading programs for children, and literary competitions.

The Ithra Library is an inspiring place for all ages and backgrounds, consisting of four floors, halls adorned with beautiful architectural designs, a café, and practical spaces equipped with computers, comfortable seating and all the needed tools for readers and visitors.



## Children's Museum

Ithra's Children's Museum is the first museum in the Kingdom for children up to 12 years old, offering a range of opportunities to enrich children's lives through interactive play-based experiences, exhibitions, classrooms and workshops.

## Idea Lab

Ithra's Idea Lab is a place where ideas are transformed into reality. It represents the core of a community that inspires and stimulates the process of creativity and innovation in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Lab features knowledge and building tools needed to complete the idea-to-prototype innovation journey to create sustainable projects and marketable products. The Idea Lab features an Immersive Lab and hosts national and international competitions, workshops and festivals dedicated to innovation and creativity.





## Energy Exhibit

Ithra's Energy Exhibit was one of the first scientific and educational exhibitions in the Kingdom. It was known as the Oil Exhibition before becoming the Energy Exhibit, since it now includes other sources of energy, including renewables. It continues to tell the tale of oil in the Kingdom, starting from the first moments of exploration and discovery to the latest science about extraction and refining.

The exhibition is equipped with the latest interactive educational technologies to attract young people and support their passion for science, technology, engineering and mathematics by taking them on an exciting journey to learn about the sacrifices and achievements of the past, and the future challenges in the field of oil, gas and alternative energy.





## Prince Saud Bin Nayef Park

The story begins with Khaled Alturki, owner of Alturki Holding, when he decided, in partnership with the Eastern Province Municipality, to create a park for everyone – a park designed for the mind, body and soul of everyone regardless of gender, age or cultural backgrounds. Specifically, Alturki sought a design with full accessibility for the disabled; and so, Prince Saud bin Nayef Park was born. It's relatively small in area, but no less spacious than the Arab history and Islamic culture upon

which it was built. Its circular design features a fountain, a lighthouse, walled lanes, palm trees and greenways to inspire and offer peace to visitors. Its carefully written Arabic messages take visitors on a journey of knowledge and spiritual meditation through artistic calligraphy.

Prince Saud bin Nayef Park in Al-Dhahran has its own spirit, reassuring aesthetic, ethic of sustainability and intellectual sparkle.



Fourth Station

# Al-Ahsa

Museum of Water  
and Palm Trees



## The City from Above:

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Al-Ahsa boasts the largest oasis in the world. Featuring historic cities such as Hofuf and Al Mubarraz in addition to many villages, and the port of Al-Uqayr, Al Ahsa, with its lush oasis and vast desert, has known civilizations for more than 5,000 years. The ancient and modern world recognized it as an important route and pilgrimage center in the Arab world and a passage to the Arabian Gulf and Mesopotamia. Its aquifers and inexhaustible springs make it a year-round green haven in the middle of the desert. It famously produces the best dates in the region as well as lemons, rice, among many other crops. It is also home to the Ghawar field, which is the largest oil field in the world in terms of reserves and production which alone represents about 6% of the daily global production of oil! For these reasons, Al-Ahsa is one of the largest governorates in the Eastern Province in terms of area, population, culture and prosperit.

Al-Ahsa is a tree that does not lose its leaves. Its deep roots delve into the fields of water, oil and the history of mankind and the land. Hence, flourishing with bounties and monuments is not a coincidence, where it used to be a shady spot for its people throughout history.





## Ibrahim Historical Palace

The Ibrahim Historical Palace is located in Al Hofuf. The 16,500 square meter facility was built about 500 years ago. It stands as a great witness to the central importance of Al-Ahsa's role as a trade route center over the centuries. The palace, which combined the Islamic and military styles of construction, was at once an impregnable fortress, a luxurious residence, a mosque with the largest historical dome in the Gulf and the seat of an emirate. It has witnessed many radical transformations in the history of Al-Ahsa, including the visit of HM King Abdulaziz Al-Saud in 1912.

The palace has undergone numerous restoration and renovation efforts, including its renovation in 1801 by Ibrahim bin Afaisan, to whom some historians attribute the name of the palace. The addition HM King Abdulaziz Al-Saud of a communications room was the first of its kind in the Eastern Province. The most recent restoration was carried out by the Ministry of Tourism in 2019, in which it preserved the urban accuracy and the style of its original construction. Many cultural and heritage events and activities now take place around the palace, celebrating its ancient prestige and historical importance.



## Al-Qarah Mountain

### Land of Civilizations

Al-Qarah Mountain is a place of portico-like caves and rocky outcrops so sculpted by the ages that they look like man-made statues. The weathering of time at Al-Qarah Mountain is so beautiful and unique that it fools the eye of visitors who often find it hard to believe it was not engineered by an artist.

Blending with its surroundings, the mountain is a witness overlooking the city. At the height of the summer, it feels as cool as the palm forests around it. The top of the mountain also offers a wonderful view of the breathtaking

forests, and the villages below and around it.

Tales, novels and history are hidden in the folds of the mountain's caves. The mountain has been known by several names in books and historical documents, adding to its sense of mystery. While its history is deep rooted, it boasts a contemporary cultural presence with the events and activities that take place at the site, making Al-Qarah Mountain worth visiting again and again. And every time it will appear to be adorned with new rock forms seeming to grow from the lively mountain.



## Jawatha Mosque

In an act of faith linking the east side of the Arabian Peninsula to the west side, the Banu Abdul Qais built the Jawatha Mosque in the seventh year of the Hijrah, after they voluntarily backed the Prophet (PBUH). It became the second mosque in which Friday prayers were held in the history of Islam and the site is still used for prayer today.

The Jawatha Mosque, which was founded on the values of peace and piety, has been recently restored to its original style of construction. The "Tourist City of Jawatha" was established around it to make the mosque a cultural hub with a renewed legacy and its principles firmly in place.





## Al Uqayr Port

Al Uqayr Port has stood tall and glowing on the shores of the Arabian Gulf for more than ten centuries. It features a historical beach of archeological value and a unique character. It has stood sentinel to the succession of civilizations in the Eastern Province. It was built by the Ottomans, and they relied heavily on it to interact and communicate with other countries such as India and China, until HM King Abdulaziz Al-Saud transformed it into the main port and economic gateway to the emerging Saudi state. The port housed the customs and passport control facilities, the Khan Building, the Emirate Building, the fortress, the mosque, a water spring and the Bu Zohmul Tower.

As such, Al-Uqayr Port was the first lifeline for the center of the peninsula and the entire Eastern Province. It has witnessed political events critical to the Saudi state until it was eventually superseded by the port of Dammam. Because of its long cultural history, Al-Ahsa Municipality has taken great care of it, ultimately transforming it into a tourist destination including a beach that is now frequented by thousands of visitors daily.



## Princes School

The oldest public school in Saudi Arabia, the Princes School was the starting point for education in the Eastern Province. It was established in 1941 in the city of Al Hofuf. Today, it stands as a marker of the Kingdom's educational roots and a symbol of culture. It was established in 1937 under the patronage of HRH Prince Saud bin Jalawi, the Prince of Al-Ahsa at the time, before the visit of HM King Abdulaziz Al-Saud who inaugurated it in 1941. The school is particularly distinguished for its original method of construction, which harkens back to the classical art of Arab-Islamic architecture, which was known for selecting the most beautiful stones. Passing through the courtyard and seeing the

architecture revealed through the beautifully carved columns is a treat of cultural and historical heritage.

The first graduating class consisted of 70 students, including HRH Prince Khalid Al-Faisal, the late writer and minister Ghazi Al-Qusai-bi and the former minister HE Ali Al-Nuaimi. In 2012, the school was transformed into a museum dedicated to memorializing the decades of education in Al-Hofuf. The Princes School has also been included among the historical and archeological sites recognized by the General Authority for Tourism and National Heritage in Al-Ahsa.





## Al-Qaisaryah Market

Al-Qaisaryah Market is a traditional souk that reflects the region's long history in trading. It is one of the oldest markets on the Arabian Peninsula. While it is said to have been established in 1822, some historical documents and memoirs indicate its history may reach back more than 600 years. Over the course of its history, the market has played an important role in growing the economic development of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in addition to its cultural, historical and heritage dimensions. The market's architecture and design with its roofed corridors echo the cultural legacy of the Eastern Province. The market contains 422 shops with their

contents, industry, multiple professional crafts. Available services in the market also include restaurants, hotels, apartments, money exchange shops and more.

Its designs imitate the ancient heritage of the people of the Eastern Province, with closed and roofed corridors that make you feel nostalgic. The walls are filled with different traditional costumes, preserving the familiar and giving you a feeling of longing, as if it restores life to that time.



## House of Allegiance

The House of Allegiance is one of the most important historical landmarks and tourist attractions in Al-Ahsa. It is a monument to the story of the people of Al-Ahsa's pledge of allegiance to the founding king, HM King Abdulaziz Al-Saud.

The House of Allegiance acquired its name and place in the hearts of the people of Al-Ahsa when HM King Abdulaziz Al-Saud settled in Al-Ahsa in the house of Al-Mulla (HE Abdul Rahman bin Omar bin Muhammad bin Muhammad Al Mulla, the judge of Al-Ahsa), where the people pledged allegiance to work to raise the status of the

Kingdom in all fields. The building is a model of heritage houses with its ancient architectural style, and it stands as a monument for societal achievement at the time and the development of the Saudi identity. As an important Saudi landmark, it is now being maintained as a moral treasure for future generations.



Fifth Station

# Al Qatif


Cradle of Spears and Success



## The City from Above:

Al Qatif extends from Safwa in the north to Dammam to its south. Within this expanse is the well-known "Khutt" region – or "Line Spears" – from the pre-Islamic and Islamic eras. It is famous for its richness in palm trees and crops. Its coastal areas are renowned for their pearls. Its land was rich in oil and gas and it has a deep-rooted history. Some historians believe it was the first settlement of the entire Arabian Gulf. One of Qatif's most important sites is Tarout Island, which is rich in antiquities and the fourth largest island in the Gulf. It is also home to the airport of Darin, which was the first Saudi airport and the second in the Gulf region.

Named for the act of harvesting fruit, Al Qatif is the birthplace of distinguished ancient and contemporary poets, scholars, and leaders of industry.







## Tarout Island

Tarout Castle was once a fortress for soldiers to protect from outside invaders. It is now a historical structure shrouded in mystery and antiquity. It is located on Tarout Island, which has been inhabited for more than 5,000 years, during which time it has witnessed the rise and fall of empires, states and religions.

The questions surrounding Tarout Castle and its role in historical events have made it a destination both for researchers and tourists. Was it built by Portuguese invaders more than five hundred

years ago? Or does its legacy go back to the ancient civilizations of the Sumerian era?

The Castle of Tarout is worthy of curiosity and deserves its reputation as an archeological treasure.



## Al Ramis

Al Ramis is a development project in the center of Awamiya. It is linked in all its parts to the identity of Qatif and Awamiya as a whole. It is an ambitious and forward-reaching project fusing entertainment with the concept of connection and belonging.

The project aims to provide an attractive investment environment, and to be a tourist and entertainment destination that resonates with the region's unique culture and history. In every way possible, it expresses the heritage, architecture and civilization of Al Qatif and Al Awamiya, starting with its name "Al-Ramis" which is derived from the well-known

Al-Ramis Endowment and the names of its buildings that recall eras past, such as the mayor's house, Al-Hawi, and Souk Al-Deira. Al Ramis is developing into a destination that transcends the borders of the region with creatively unique spaces that invite visitors to learn more about the cultural depth of Al Qatif and the Eastern Province.



## Castle Palace of Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab

**“To the owner, we wish happiness and peace  
A lengthy life  
Permanent glory in which there is no humiliation  
And an approach to the Day of Judgment”**

These two verses are engraved on the door of the palace of Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab as if they were a prophecy of the palace, which is still in ruins, clinging to the threshold of history and refusing to fall into complete extinction or oblivion.

The construction of the Castle Palace of Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab dates to before 1885 and is approximately 8,000 square meters. It is adjacent to the ancient Darin Castle and shares a part of its storied history. Excavations at the site have found antiquities dating back to the early Islamic and pre-Islamic eras.



Last Station

# Other Faces of Beauty



## Fanateer Beach Al Jubail

Al Jubail is at the heart of industry in the Kingdom; yet, it is also famous for its appealing tourist attractions, distinctive residential neighborhoods and numerous picturesque beaches. At the forefront of these is Al Fanateer Beach, a popular destination that provides great access to the area's natural beauty: The water is crystal blue and contains a variety of marine life forms and coral reefs.

Al Fanateer Beach is an important attraction since it is an ideal place for swimming and offers various facilities and services, as well as recreational games so visitors can fully enjoy the charming nature of the beach.





## Friday Market Abqaiq

In the city that is the home to the largest oil field and refinery in the world, you will find the Friday Market is the beating heart of the street and its people.

Abqaiq's Friday Market is considered one of the most important and popular markets in the Eastern Province. Appealing to both local residents and visitors, the market is an authentic feature of the weekly life of the people of Abqaiq.

The Friday Market offers a variety of high-end products at reasonable prices as well as fulfilling the basic needs of the area's many residents. The market also offers them the opportunity to hold fast and faithfully to their beloved heritage as well as introducing the contemporary trends and goods of modern life.





## Al Nairyah Traditional Market

The forty-year-old Al Nairyah Market has a much older story than its own apparent age. It is the story of historical communication between urban and rural areas, trade, bartering and ancient crafts.

Whoever visits the Al Nairyah Market now and sees its producers with their handicrafts will likely sense the ancient history of blending Bedouin and urbanized cultures together.

Al Nairyah market is not only a place for trade – it represents the cultural roots of a nation and the history of the land.





Dear Reader,

Here we conclude this tour and the Eastern Province bids you farewell: “My beauty is waiting for you whenever you visit. These are some of my places, which always seek to enrich.”

Thank you for joining us.

